

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 04294 222101Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1218
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO
CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SOPN, PEPR, KS, US
SUBJ: HANGUK ILBO INTERVIEW WITH FOREIGN MINISTER, MAY 20

1. FORMIN PAK TONG-JIN HELD TWO-HOUR INTERVIEW WITH EDITORIAL STAFF OF HANGUK ILBO ON MAY 20. WIDE-RANGING DISCUSSION BROKE LITTLE NEW GROUND. FOLLOWING IS SUMMARY OF MAJOR ITEMS FROM PUBLISHED ACCOUNT.

2. TRIPARTITE PROPOSAL. FORMIN CONFIRMED PROPOSAL ORIGINATED FROM TITO AND ROK HAD CONVEYED ITS REACTION TO YUGOSLAVIA THROUGH US. FORMIN NOTED PRECISE DETAILS OF PROPOSAL WERE STILL NOT KNOWN TO ROK, BUT "IF IT CAN PLAY CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE TOWARD PEACE AND UNIFICATION, THEN WE CAN GIVE POSITIVE CONSIDERATION". NOTING DPRK OBJECTION AND FACT PROPOSAL "HAD MADE NO PROGRESS", FORMIN OPINED, "IS IS SAFE TO THINK IT IS VIRTUALLY A DEAD ISSUE". FORMIN ADDED ROK DESIRE FOR DIRECT CONTACT WITH YUGOSLAVIA AND ESTABLISHING RELATIONS WITH YUGOSLAVIA EQUAL TO THOSE OF DPRK.

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3. JAWORSKI. "I AM PERSONALLY VERY MUCH DISAPPOINTED". FORMIN DETAILED ROKG ATTEMPTS FOR COMPROMISE AND CRITICIZED JAWORSKI'S HANDLING AS HAVING "NO CONSIDERATION OF OTHER COUNTRIES AND NO INTEREST IN NORMAL INTERNATIONAL PRACTICES".

4. TROOP WITHDRAWAL. FORMIN SAID WITHDRAWAL SEEMED

SET ALONG READJUSTED SCHEDULE, BUT ADDED THE CONCLUDING PHASES OF WITHDRAWAL ARE NOT CLEAR AND IT "APPEARS THERE IS FLEXIBILITY".

5. ROK DIPLOMACY. CITING ROK'S DIPLOMACY WITH NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES IS "99 PERCENT OUR OWN", FORMIN NOTED GREAT CHANGE FROM TEN YEARS AGO WHEN ROK'S DEPENDENCE ON US WAS MUCH GREATER. FORMIN ADDED THAT IN SOME CASES HELP FROM OTHER COUNTRIES MIGHT ACTUALLY BE DETRIMENTAL. FORMIN IS QUOTED, "WE ARE NOT INTERESTED IN GAINING ADMISSION TO NON-ALIGNED LEAGUE". IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION ON POSSIBLE US CONTACT WITH NORTH KOREA, FORMIN REPLIED "KOREA/US COOPERATION IS VERY CLOSE AND CONTINUING".
SNEIDER

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Message Attributes

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Concepts: PRESS CONFERENCES
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Draft Date: 22 may 1978
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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